



Elephant FIRE UPDATE

Fire Information: (540) 525-1539

*USDA Forest Service
George Washington & Jefferson
National Forests
Glenwood & Pedlar Ranger
Districts*

**Tuesday, April 16, 2013
9:00 a.m.**

Location	The Elephant Fire is located on Elephant Mountain, just east of Buena Vista, Virginia.
Estimated Acreage	Approximately 250 acres
Containment	33% contained
Operational Plan	For Tuesday, April 16, 2013, firefighters will construct containment lines and extinguish hotspots along the south and east sides of the fire. Efforts will continue to secure the rocky northeast portion of the fire. Additional interior mop-up will continue along the west side of the fire. Rehabilitation work will begin today on dozer lines created near structures in Buena Vista.
Fire Cause	The Elephant Fire was initially reported at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 14, 2013. The cause of the fire is under investigation
Resources on the Fire	Approximately 140 firefighters and support staff, including two Type 1 Hotshot Crews, one Type 2 Initial Attack Crew, two dozers, five engines, and a helicopter are assisting with the Elephant Fire.
Closures	No closures at this time
Cooperators	Virginia Department of Forestry, National Park Service, Buena Vista Fire Department
Fire Weather	<p>Tuesday Weather: Cloudy and damp with occasional drizzle this morning, then becoming partly cloudy. High 78 degrees. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph. Minimum humidity, 62%.</p> <p>Tuesday Evening Weather: A few clouds. Low 58 degrees. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph. Maximum humidity, 84%.</p> <p>Wednesday Weather: Partial cloudiness early, with scattered showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Warm. High 81 degrees. Winds light and variable. Chance of rain 40%. Minimum humidity, 57%.</p>
General Fire Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety of the public and firefighters is always the number one priority when dealing with wildfires.• Over one mile of dozer line was completed on the west end of the fire to protect approximately 30 homes. Rehabilitation of this line will begin on Tuesday. No structures have been lost or damaged.• Smoke from the Elephant Fire may continue to be visible in Buena Vista and surrounding areas for several days.• Homeowners can learn how to make their homes less susceptible to wildfires by visiting: www.firewise.org.

Contact: Michael Williams, Public Information Officer: (540) 525-1539